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USCSB

UNITED STATES  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SECURITY BOARD

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN


OSD Review Completed

6 September 1978

TO: DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: National COMSEC Directive (U)

The final draft of the new National COMSEC Directive is attached. This version incorporates the changes agreed at the USCSB (Former) meeting on 3 August 1978, and the results of separate discussion of issues raised in the Board meeting. This text will be discussed with the Executive Agent for COMSEC, and the Chairman, SSTP, prior to publication. It is intended that the attached draft become the official text unless changes are required by this coordination step; or if Members of the USCSB (Former) have additional comments. Please advise the Executive Secretary prior to 22 September if there are any additional comments. As discussed at the 3 August meeting, the Directive will be signed and issued by the Executive Agent for COMSEC.

  
GERALD P. DINNEEN  
Chairman

Incl:  
a/s

DISTRIBUTION:

Members, USCSB (Former)  
Department of Commerce  
Federal Communications Commission  
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NATIONAL COMSEC DIRECTIVE

- (U) References: (a) Executive Order 12036, U.S. Intelligence Activities, 24 January 1978
- (b) PD/NSC-24, Telecommunications Protection Policy, 16 November 1977
- (c) Executive Order 12065, National Security Information, 28 June 1978

(C) Executive Order 12036 and PD/NSC-24 (References (a) and (b)) designate the Secretary of Defense as the Executive Agent for Communications Security (COMSEC) to protect all government-derived classified information and government-derived unclassified information which relates to the national security. "National security", as used in this Directive, is as defined in E.O. 12065 (Reference (c)), paragraph 6-104: "National security means the national defense and foreign relations of the United States."

(C) The protection of national security information is a national responsibility, and the activities pertaining thereto must be organized and managed to ensure maximum utilization of available resources to satisfy the requirements of the National Security Council and the departments and agencies of the government. To ensure the coordination of the communications security activities of the several departments and agencies of the government, this directive establishes organizational relationships and delegates functions within the government for the discharge of the responsibilities assigned to the Secretary of Defense as Executive Agent for COMSEC.

(U) For the purposes of this Directive, communications security is the protection of classified information and other information relating to national security resulting from the application of cryptosecurity, transmission security and emission security measures to electrical processing systems, and from the application of physical security measures to COMSEC information and material. These measures are taken to deny unauthorized persons information of value which might be derived from the possession and study of telecommunications or electrical processing systems; or to ensure authenticity; or to provide jam resistance for telecommunications.

1. (C) The Executive Agent for COMSEC. As prescribed in References (a) and (b), the Secretary of Defense, as the Executive Agent for Communications Security, is responsible for protecting government-derived classified information and unclassified information relating to the national security. As the Executive Agent, he shall:

a. (U) Adhere to broad policy guidance promulgated by the National Security Council Special Coordination Committee through its Special Subcommittee on Telecommunications Protection (SSTP).

b. (C) Coordinate, as appropriate, with the Secretary of Commerce who has been designated as the government's Executive Agent for Communications Protection for government-derived unclassified information not related to national security, to reduce areas of overlap.

CONFIDENTIAL

2. (U) The National Communications Security Committee (NCSC).

a. (U) The National Communications Security Committee (NCSC), hereinafter referred to as the Committee, is established to assist the Executive Agent, COMSEC in the discharge of his responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and effective national COMSEC effort. The Committee shall operate in accordance with this directive and any other directives that may be issued by the Executive Agent.

b. (U) The Committee shall be composed of one representative of each of the following:

- (1) The Secretary of State
- (2) The Secretary of Treasury
- (3) The Attorney General
- (4) The Secretary of Defense
- (5) The Secretary of Transportation
- (6) The Secretary of Energy
- (7) The Secretary of the Army
- (8) The Secretary of the Navy
- (9) The Secretary of the Air Force
- (10) The Director of Central Intelligence
- (11) The Director, National Security Agency

c. (U) In addition to the above Committee membership, representatives of the following are invited to participate as observers. They may also be invited by the Chairman, NCSC to participate whenever matters of direct interest to their respective departments or agencies are before the Committee:

- (1) The Secretary of Commerce
- (2) The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
- (3) The Administrator, General Services Administration
- (4) The Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
- (5) The Manager, National Communications System

- CONFIDENTIAL**
- (6) The Director, Defense Communications Agency
  - (7) The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
  - (8) The Director, Defense Logistics Agency
  - (9) The Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

d. (U) Under the authority of the Chairman, NCSC, it shall be the responsibility of the Committee to:

- (1) Act in support of the Executive Agent, COMSEC.
- (2) Establish broad COMSEC objectives, policies and implementing procedures ~~to the Executive Agent, COMSEC, in accordance with the procedures in (5) below.~~ \*
- (3) Develop coordinated interagency recommendations for the Executive Agent, COMSEC's approval, when required.
- (4) Review annually for the Executive Agent the COMSEC status and objectives of all departments and agencies and make recommendations for COMSEC applications.
- (5) Establish a national COMSEC issuance system for promulgating policies and for issuing COMSEC guidance and information of government-wide interest. Objectives and policy issuances will be signed by the Executive Agent after coordination with the Chairman, SSTP.
- (6) Provide COMSEC guidance in accordance with approved procedures to U.S. Departments and Agencies in their relations with foreign governments, international organizations, and private industry.

e. (U) The Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Agent on Committee membership and shall establish procedures and membership criteria for considering membership changes.

f. (U) The Committee shall meet at the invitation of the Chairman or request of any member. A minimum of two formal meetings shall be held annually and the presence of a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

g. (U) The Committee shall reach decisions by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall cast a deciding vote. The Director, National Security Agency shall have no vote in matters involving appeals from his own decision. In the event the Committee votes and reaches a decision, any dissenting member of the Committee may appeal from such a decision. Such appeal must be made within 15 days to the Executive Agent for COMSEC. In the event that the Committee votes and fails to reach a

decision, any member of the Committee may appeal to the Executive Agent for COMSEC and such appeal must be made within 15 days of the inconclusive vote. In either event, the Executive Agent shall review the vote and reach a decision. If the subject of the appeal is in the nature of an emergency, the Executive Agent will determine action to be taken pending outcome of the appeal. Action by the Executive Agent does not preclude referral to the SSTP or higher bodies. Appeal by the representative of any component of the Department of Defense shall be filed only with the approval of the Secretary of Defense.

h. (U) The Chairman may invite any department or agency not represented to participate in matters of direct interest to such a department or agency. Such a department or agency may also request consideration of a matter by the Committee.

i. (U) Departments or agencies not represented on the Committee may appeal from decisions of the Committee in the manner prescribed for departments and agencies represented on the Committee.

3. (C) Chairmanship of the National Communications Security Committee (NCSC). The NCSC shall be chaired by the representative of the Secretary of Defense, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Communications, Command, Control and Intelligence (ASD(C<sup>3</sup>I)). He is responsible for:

a. (U) Establishing procedural arrangements for the execution of his assigned functions.

b. (U) Maintaining liaison with the Office of the Secretary of Commerce who is the Executive Agent of the government for protection of communications not related to national security.

c. (U) Keeping the Executive Agent, COMSEC, informed on significant current COMSEC matters in the Committee.

d. (U) Establishing procedural arrangements for the discharge of staff responsibilities of the Executive Agent, COMSEC.

e. (U) Requesting such reports, information and assistance from governmental agencies as may be necessary.

4. (C) The National Communications Security Committee Secretariat.

a. (U) There is hereby established a National Communications Security Committee Secretariat that shall be responsible to and function under the direction of the Chairman, NCSC. This Secretariat shall provide the necessary staff assistance and services for the conduct of Committee business.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

b. (U) The Director, NSA, will provide a Secretariat, including an Executive Secretary who will be approved by the Chairman, and all resources required for this office, including space, equipment facilities, personnel, and administrative support.

c. (C) In carrying out its functions, the Secretariat shall:

(1) Serve as the staff central point of contact for NCSC functions.

(2) Coordinate Committee matters as necessary with Committee members and other government departments and agencies.

(3) Provide for the receipt and processing of certain Executive Agent, COMSEC and Committee correspondence.

(4) Maintain active liaison with: The Executive Secretary SSTP for the exchange of information and advice and to keep the Executive Secretary SSTP informed on significant COMSEC matters in the NCSC; the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Telecommunications and Information; the Executive Secretary for the National Foreign Intelligence Board; and other departments and agencies.

(5) Be responsive to the requirements of Committee members and serve as the direct contact with the NCSC staff members.

5. (C) The Director, National Security Agency. As prescribed in reference (a), the Director, NSA, is responsible for executing the responsibilities of the Secretary of Defense as Executive Agent for Communications Security. These responsibilities for the purpose of this Directive are set forth below. In the execution of these responsibilities, he shall fulfill requirements of the various departments and agencies of the Government.

a. (U) Prescribe or approve all cryptographic systems and techniques used by or on behalf of the government to safeguard national security and national security-related telecommunications and electrical processing systems from exploitation or disruption; or to ensure authenticity. Included are the doctrine, standards and procedures governing their operation, use, modification or removal from use, and the application of compromising emanations suppression techniques and physical security measures to protect such systems and techniques.

b. (U) Initiate research and development needed to fulfill confirmed requirements for cryptographic equipment to be used to safeguard national security and national security related telecommunications and electrical processing systems; or to advance communications security technology, including techniques, protective measures, standards for controlling compromising emanations, and basic or applied cryptographic and cryptanalytic research. When mutually agreed, the Director, NSA, may delegate authority to conduct specified cryptographic R&D projects.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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c. (C) Establish and maintain a national COMSEC assessment program to advise the Executive Agent, the Committee and other federal departments and agencies on the vulnerability to and evidence of hostile exploitation of telecommunications and electrical processing systems; and report to the National COMSEC Committee in support of the Committee's Annual Report.

d. (U) Generate and produce COMSEC aids, including all forms of keying material, act as the central procurement authority for TSEC-nomenclated equipments and design controlled spare parts, maintain a Central Office of Record (COR). When mutually agreed, DIRNSA may authorize federal departments and agencies to produce specified TSEC-nomenclated equipments and cryptomaterial in accordance with technical and security criteria prescribed by Director, NSA.

e. (C) Conduct technical COMSEC liaison with the appropriate organizations of foreign governments and international organizations concerned with such matters.

f. (U) Develop for publication by the NCSC timely and coordinated long-range National COMSEC Plans, to include consideration of equipment research, development and application, threat projection and security requirements.

g. (U) Provide technical guidance and support for COMSEC education and training programs.

h. (C) Obtain information needed to maintain an overview of COMSEC resource programs, to assure optimum utilization, and to conduct assessments of the COMSEC protection provided to national security or national security related information.

i. (C) Collaborate with departments and agencies in order to:

(1) Develop basic noncryptographic COMSEC design criteria for telecommunications and electrical processing systems, including command and control systems for weapons and space vehicles, determine the level of protection provided by a specific system, and advise and assist the cognizant department and agency.

(2) Assist in defining requirements for COMSEC equipments and systems.

(3) Formulate doctrine and standards for the application of COMSEC techniques to computer systems.

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with responsibilities assigned in refs. (a) and (b).

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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(4) Assist in the formulation of principles and the development of techniques for communications cover and manipulative communications deception, and in the preparation or review of the COMSEC elements of these programs.

(5) Assist in the identification of requirements for vulnerability assessments; assist in the identification of COMSEC surveillance and analysis resources to conduct vulnerability assessment missions.

(6) Assist in the identification of requirements for COMINT threat assessments; establish and maintain a central data base containing all source information on all hostile COMINT threats to U.S. government telecommunications and electrical processing systems; identify analytic resources to conduct threat assessments.

(7) Prescribe procedures for reporting and evaluating COMSEC insecurities; and doctrine and procedures to protect COMSEC information.

(8) Prescribe standards for federal departments and agencies Central Office of Record (COR) functions.

(9) Establish policies and procedures for the conduct of an interdepartment/agency loan program and the reuse of excess equipment.

6. (U) The Heads of Departments and Agencies of the Government. The Heads of all Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government shall organize and conduct their COMSEC activities as they see fit, subject to the provisions of law, directives of the President and the National Security Council, this Directive, and documents in the National COMSEC Issuance System. Nothing in the directive shall relieve the heads of the individual departments and agencies of their responsibilities for executing all measures required to assure the security of classified and unclassified national security information and the control of compromising emanations.

7. (U) Disclosure Privileges. Nothing in this directive shall be construed to give the Committee, any of its members, and the Executive Agent, or the Director, NSA, the right to inspect any department or agency without approval by the head thereof. Departments and agencies shall not be required to disclose to the Committee, any of its members, the Executive Agent, or the Director, NSA, the contents of any official communications concerning its activities, if, in the opinion of the head of the department or agency, the disclosure would be contrary to the national interest.

8. (C) Exemption. The communications conducted by the Central Intelligence Agency in the performance of functions described in NSCID No. 5 are specifically exempted from this Directive.

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